

MINUTES OF THE
JOINT HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2009, 2:00 P.M.
Room 30, House Building, State Capitol Complex

Members Present: Sen. Allen M. Christensen, Co Chair
 Rep. John Dougall, Co Chair
 Sen. Patricia W. Jones
 Sen. Margaret Dayton
 Sen. Daniel R. Liljenquist
 Rep. Kraig Powell
 Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck
 Rep. Keith Grover
 Rep. Ben C. Ferry
 Rep. Paul Ray
 Rep. David Litvack

Staff Present: Russell Frandsen, Fiscal Analyst
 Stephen Jardine, Fiscal Analyst
 Nicole Heidrich, Secretary

Public Speakers Present: Dr. David Sundwall, Director of the Department of Health
 Dr. James O. Mason, retired former Director of the Department of
 Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 Bob Huefner, professor at the University of Utah
 Michael Stapley, Director of the Deseret Mutual Benefit Association
 Teresa Garrett, Division Director of Epidemiology & Lab Services
 Dr. Marc Babitz, Division Director of Health Systems Improvement
 Dr. George Delavan, Director of the Division of Community and Family
 Health Services
 Michael Hales, Director of the Medicaid Program
 Dr. Dick Melton & Dr. Dave Patton, Deputy Directors of the Department
 of Health
 Llyod Berentzen & Gary Edwards, Directors of Local Health
 Departments

1. Welcome & Overview by Sen. Christensen

Russell Frandsen talked about the binders provided for the committee members.

2. Mission, Goals, Overview, Discussion of Budget Reductions & Answers to Specific Operations Questions

Dr. Sundwall wanted to make sure the committee understood all the programs and services that the Health Department provides. He gave a quick overview of the Health Department and how it has merged with Medicaid. Dr. Sundwall read the vision for the UDOH. He stated that the Public Health is the "P's": to protect, to prevent, to promote and provide care. Dr. Sundwall discussed in more depth what each one meant. These programs are not just for the poor but provided for everyone. The majority of these programs were Federally Funded. He talked about the uninsured

options from the UDOH. There are 12 local health departments and Utah is ranked 5th as the healthiest state in the nation. The UDOH has the IBIS-PH Indicator, which is a Based Information System for the Public Health. This system allows the Health Department to track programs and why the state needs these programs.

Rep. Dougall asked Dr. Sundwall to clarify Tab C and what category Utah fits into. Dr. Sundwall stated that Utah is a Super Health Agency.

Richard-Milton clarified between Utah's agency and the umbrella.

Sen. Liljenquist thanked Dr. Sundwall and his team. He stated that he hoped they could get to the level of steady growth instead of rapid growth.

Dr. James Mason stated that he is sympathetic with the private sector, and that it is an honor for him to be here. Dr. Mason said that he has been with the program before there was a UDOH, and it was the Department of Social Services. He was the first department director. Dr. Mason said that there were a lot of difficulties in the beginning, and this is what happens when health is not put as priority. He urged the committee to maintain one of the best Health Departments.

Rep. Dougall asked if there are many valid structures in a various state. Dr. Mason believed that our example is adopted as the model, and it is working here.

Sen. Liljenquist asked how the medical waivers work. Dr. Sundwall stated that they will comply with the waivers, and that the waivers have to come through the UDOH.

Sen. Jones asked Dr. Mason about his perspective on how the UDOH has changed and the new trends he is seeing? Dr. Mason stated that there are new technologies that have helped the department. The Environmental Health has been taken out of the UDOH and the need is still just as great. Sen. Jones also asked if there are services within UDOH that can be handled by the Human Services Department. Dr. Mason said that it would not be a good idea to combine the two and would encourage them to keep the two departments separate due to the fact of funding and providing adequate employees.

Sen. Liljenquist asked what his opinion on air-quality was. Dr. Mason stated that these are issues that apply to health. Sen. Liljenquist said that he could not understand the division and what would make the most sense. Dr. Mason thought it was perfectly organized.

Rep. Dougall asked why the separation of mental health and physical health? Dr. Mason stated that Medicaid Funding is coming only for Physical Health.

Sen. Jones asked what percentage of Medicaid are children. Dr. Sundwall stated that 60% of children are on Medicaid. Sen. Jones asked if the other 40% are seniors. Dr. Sundwall said that there only about 10% of seniors on Medicaid. He also said that it is pretty difficult to qualify for Medicaid.

Bob Huefner spoke about the Health Departments History. He talked about how the Health Division staff requested departmental status, and how a reorganization sub-committee studied the requests and reported they were prompted by desire for greater independence, but that the real problem was that there was too much independence and a lack of accountability. Mr. Huefner

said that the shift, to a department, recognized the increasingly critical administrative and political issues of health care and public health. In Summary, there are reasons Utah is a leading state in health and in addressing the cost and quality of health care. The structure that facilitates political-professional achievement should be supported, and effective management should not be short changed.

Rep. Dougall's perspective is that this is the proposal of Governor Huntsman. Mr. Huefner encouraged the committee to look at the budget closely and find the real need for the savings.

Sen. Jones asked what would happen if UDOH was not available without breaks. Mr. Huefner said that it could be handled in the division, but the UDOH needs to be able to work with other departments. Sen. Jones asked that if after the reorganization they have achieved accountability Mr. Huefner said they have not yet achieved it.

Sen. Liljenquist would like to see more doctors use a preferred drug list. Dr. Sundwall said that it was adopted with Medicaid. The problem with the law is that if the doctor wrote the prescription out differently there was no savings.

Rep. Dougall asked that if when dealing with dispensing written drugs how is it tracked. Dr. Sundwall said that it was tracked. Rep. Dougall asked to see documentation.

Rep. Ray said that he would like to see where they are actually at the funding amounts.

Michael Stapley was involved in the issues of UDOH, and implementing the programs that were decided. The common goal of the UDOH is to provide better programs for the citizens of Utah.

4. Discussion of the Budget

Teresa Garrett reviewed the function of the Division of Epidemiology & Lab Services. She stated that their goal as a division was to detect, stop and prevent disease before it even reaches the public.

Sen. Liljenquist asked how it has grown in the last five years. Mrs. Garrett replied that the TFE has gone up 2.5%, but from a federal perspective their budget has declined.

Rep. Dougall encouraged the committee to dive into the details.

Sen. Liljenquist asked where they could cut in the Department of Epidemiology & Lab Services for FY2010 and are they purposing more than 15%. Dr. Sundwall said that they can show the committee alternatives where they can cut.

Rep. Dougall said that he would recommend they prioritize where they would like cuts. Dr. Sundwall referred to the Base Budget and said that anything in white is okay to cut, and the items in gray are to be left as is.

Sen. Liljenquist said that he added up the gray areas and asked what the alternatives are to get them back on budget. Dr. Sundwall said that they could provide access of the 15%. Sen. Liljenquist asked if they can agree that there are other areas to look at.

Rep. Litvak asked what the differences are between the two Base Budget recommendations, and he would like to see the differences.

Sen. Jones asked that the white be numbered with the highest priority.

Sen. Liljenquist asked where the impacts are going to be felt. Dr. Sundwall said there is an impact statement on the document.

Sen. Jones would like feed back on the providers. Rep. Dougall said that next week they would have the providers come in to speak.

Sen. Liljenquist wanted to know if they had to take a 15% cut and where would these cuts have the least impact on public health.

Sen. Liljenquist asked if they could address the cost of living. Dr. Sundwall said to talk to Jeff Haring.

Dr. Marc Babitz the Divison Director of Health Systems Improvement spoke about the audits within the programs, and what they did to improve the programs. Rep. Dougall asked him to elaborate on the trainers. Dr. Babitz said that the providers and licensors were not on the same page when it came to protocol, but now they are provided education together.

Mr. Frandsen said that legislation has decided that #68 has gone into the general fund and not restricted to a general fund.

Dr. Babitz referred to the EMS cuts on the Budget fact sheet. Rep. Dougall asked if the fee for licensors would cover the entire cost. Dr. Babitz said that there would be a 25% increase in the fee to cover additional costs.

Rep. Powell asked if the funds for EMS are being purposed out of the appropriations general fund, and being reduced \$300,000 and retain it for the counties. He thanked them for the willingness to cut state general fund.

Co-Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Nicole Heidrich, Secretary

Sen. Allen Christensen, Committee Co-Chair

Rep. John Dougall, Committee Co-Chair